

Date of Meeting: June 18, 2014

XIV

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE ACTION ITEM

SUBJECT: Dulles Air Cargo, Passenger and Metro Access Highway

ELECTION DISTRICT: Dulles, Blue Ridge

STAFF CONTACT(S): Tim Hemstreet, County Administrator
Joe Kroboth, Transportation & Capital Infrastructure
Lou Mosurak, Transportation & Capital Infrastructure
Bob Brown, Transportation & Capital Infrastructure

PURPOSE: To provide an opportunity for the Board of Supervisors to discuss the Dulles Air Cargo, Passenger and Metro Access Highway alternatives and information gained from the June 2, 2014 public hearing.

BACKGROUND:

On April 3, 2013 VDOT presented to the Board of Supervisors' (Board) their plan to include a North-South Corridor in the state's Corridors of Statewide Significance. This included improving access to Dulles International Airport (Airport). On October 15, 2012 the Economic Development Committee recommended the Board support efforts for a North-South Corridor from Interstate 66 to the Airport in order to support the passenger and cargo growth at the Airport. On November 7, 2012 the Board adopted a resolution supporting the concept of a North-South Corridor (not an alignment) which would further encourage the economic growth and jobs the corridor would bring to Loudoun County and Virginia. In 2013 VDOT initiated an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Dulles Air Cargo, Passenger and Metro Access Highway (DACPMH). Other than recommending additional alternatives be studied and attending VDOT sponsored public meetings on January 24, 2013 and April 4, 2013, a Location Study Public Meeting on June 13, 2013, and a Public Hearing on April 22, 2014, the Board has taken no other official action as of this date.

The Board held a public input session at Briar Woods High School on June 2, 2014 regarding the proposed access road. The Board sponsored the June 2, 2014 Public Meeting to allow for the following:

1. Provide a summary of the Countywide Transportation Plan as it relates to the Route 50 corridor and areas south of the Brambleton community;

2. Allow VDOT the opportunity to present the findings and conclusions of their EA; and
3. Provide an opportunity for the public to submit testimony on the information provided and alternatives contained within the various presentations.

A total of 49 speakers addressed the Board during the June 4th session and their input on the matter is summarized as follows:

- In favor of the No Build Alternative: 14
- In favor of Alternative 2A: 22
- In favor of Alternative 3C: 13

In addition to those addressing the Board, three speakers also provided recorded comments with two stating preference for Alternative 2 and one for Alternative 3C.

At the Board Business meeting held on June 4, 2014, Chairman York requested the board add an item to the agenda for the June 18th meeting to discuss the Dulles Air Cargo, Passenger and Metro Access Highway. He suggested staff be directed to perform computer modeling that included at least three scenarios, so as to provide the Board with more information before rendering a position on the various alternatives proposed.

ISSUES:

VDOT held its Location Public Hearing on April 22, 2014. The public comment period ended on May 7, 2014. However, the timing of completing the Environmental Study is yet to be determined. VDOT has decided that based upon recently approved state legislation (House Bill 2) recently signed into law, most studies and projects will have to be prioritized based upon “an objective and quantifiable analysis that considers, at a minimum, the following factors relative to the cost of the project or strategy: congestion mitigation, economic development, accessibility, safety, and environmental quality”. The process will delay VDOT being able to take their recommended alternative and the Loudoun County recommended alternative to the Commonwealth Transportation Board for any action.

If the Board of Supervisors selects one of the alternatives from the EA, they could direct staff to proceed with a CTP amendment to include this alternative. At the June 2nd public input meeting, County staff presented an overview of the Countywide Transportation Plan in this area and VDOT staff provided a presentation and updates on the EA process.

MODELING SCENARIOS:

Staff has requested a scoping document and price proposal from a task order consultant to conduct various modeling scenarios for this project. At this point, the following scenarios are proposed:

1. CTP network, with access to the airport modeled from various locations including from a future interchange at Loudoun County Parkway and Route 606; Route 606 and Route 50)
2. VDOT Alternative 2, on the CTP network
3. VDOT Alternative 3C, on the CTP network

In addition to airport access being modeled from the two interchanges mentioned, the Consultant has been tasked to review both the Route 50 and 606 corridors to recommend the most logical airport access point given existing and planned conditions. Once determined, the Consultant will model those access points as well.

Staff recommends the Board also direct the Consultant to evaluate a scenario that extends the widening of Evergreen Mills Road through to Northstar Blvd. Under the currently approved CTP, the Evergreen Mill Road widening is planned to end at Belmont Ridge Road and Evergreen Mill Road would be physically disconnected from Northstar Blvd. This connection could provide additional east-west connectivity and reduce congestion stresses on the adjoining roadways. The Consultant's report would include specific recommendations and summarize the benefits/detriments to implementing this network change.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. The Board of Supervisors could direct staff to model the scenarios listed in this item.
2. The Board of Supervisors could direct staff to model a set of scenarios different than those listed in this item.

DRAFT MOTION:

1. I move that the Board of Supervisors, using funding from the CIP – Capital Project Management Account, direct staff to engage the services of a Consultant to model the Dulles Air Cargo, Passenger and Metro Access Highway scenarios outlined in this item and report the findings back to the Board at a regular business meeting no later than November 1, 2014.

OR

2. I move an alternate motion.